

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2271 - SB 2392

February 11, 2002

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Governor to appoint a public health planning commission to develop a plan for responding to a public health emergency such as an attack of bioterrorism, an infectious outbreak, a natural disaster, chemical attack or a nuclear accident. Requires health care providers, coroners, pharmacists, veterinarians and livestock owners to report any cases that could potentially cause a public health emergency. Makes the Department of Health the Public Health Authority responsible for responding to and investigating emergencies. Makes the Department of Safety the Public Safety Authority and establishes a Public Health Emergency Planning Commission appointed by the Governor. The Governor may declare a public health emergency in consultation with the Department of Health and utilize necessary state resources to respond to the emergency. The Governor or the General Assembly may terminate the emergency. The Department of Health is to inform the public of any public health emergency and could impose fines or penalties and issue orders to deal with the emergency. The Public Health Authority may take over health facilities and utilize resources as necessary to respond to the emergency. The authority, may test, quarantine, treat and vaccinate any persons to respond to the emergency. The authority may take immediate possession and distribute any needed medicines and medical supplies. The costs of the response may be born by transferring funds from other state activities to be repaid at a later date. The state or its political subdivisions would not be liable for any death or injury in complying with a public health emergency.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

Other Fiscal Impact – The occurrence and response to such a public health emergency could create significant state expenditures at the time of the emergency due to requirements of the bill.

Estimate assumes increased expenditures caused by the planning requirements in the bill however such increase is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



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James A. Davenport, Executive Director